

Reference No. 17.7

**PERSONS COVERED BY HOSPITAL AND MEDICAL EXPENDITURE ASSISTANCE SCHEMES
AUGUST 1972 - PRELIMINARY STATEMENT**

In August 1972 a survey, based on the quarterly population survey, was conducted throughout Australia in order to obtain information about the extent to which persons were covered by hospital or medical expenditure assistance schemes, i.e. contributory hospital and medical benefits funds and non-contributory schemes such as the Pensioner Medical Service (but excluding the entitlement to free public ward treatment in Queensland hospitals - see paragraph 5 below). The sample used in the survey covered the six States, the Northern Territory and the Australian Capital Territory. About 30,000 households were enumerated, the information being obtained by carefully chosen and specially trained interviewers during a four-week period.

2. The estimates relate to all persons aged 15 years and over, except members of the permanent armed forces, national servicemen enlisted in the Regular Army Supplement and certain diplomatic personnel customarily excluded from census and estimated populations. Persons who were patients in hospitals and sanatoria, or inmates of gaols, reformatories, etc., and for whom, for the purpose of the survey, the institution was regarded as their dwelling, were excluded from the survey.

3. A hospital and/or medical benefits fund is defined as "a non-profit organisation providing benefits towards the cost of meeting hospital and/or medical expenses; this organisation must be registered under the National Health Act". At the time of the survey there were 94 such organisations in Australia; 73 provided coverage for both hospital and medical expenses, 16 provided coverage for hospital expenses only and 5 provided coverage for medical expenses only. About one quarter of the funds restricted eligibility for membership by reference to employment, a particular profession, professional association or union.

4. Since the estimates in this bulletin are based on a sample, they may differ from the figures that would have been obtained from a complete census using the same questionnaires and procedures. One measure of the likely difference is given by the standard error, which indicates the extent to which an estimate might have varied by chance because only a sample, and not the whole population, was enumerated. More information on this topic, together with a table of standard errors, is given in the August 1972 issue of the mimeographed bulletin "The Labour Force" (Reference No. 6.20).

5. In Queensland, patients in public wards of hospitals are not charged any fee; however, in order to be insured against private ward hospital charges or medical expenses, many people join a hospital and/or medical benefits fund. For the purposes of this survey this entitlement to free public ward treatment has not been counted as an expenditure assistance scheme. Because of this circumstance, the proportion of persons covered by such schemes was lower in Queensland than elsewhere, being only 66.4 per cent, whereas in the rest of Australia coverage was 89.9 per cent, the combined figure for all Australia being 86.5 per cent. Table 3, which gives separate estimates for married males and for persons of differing birthplace, shows the percentages covered for Australia as a whole and for Australia apart from Queensland.

6. This statement contains only a summary of the more important results of the survey. More detailed estimates will be published in a bulletin to be issued as soon as possible.

NOTE. Any discrepancies between totals and sums of components in tables are due to rounding.

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TABLE 1. - NON-INSTITUTIONAL POPULATION (a) : COVERAGE OF HOSPITAL AND MEDICAL EXPENDITURE ASSISTANCE SCHEMES (b), BY STATE, AUGUST 1972

	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld.(c)	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	Aust.(d)
MALES							
Covered ('000)	1,451.2	1,061.4	403.7	388.4	327.4	122.5	3,816.4
Not covered ('000)	205.7	164.2	242.9	30.9	34.6	14.2	708.7
Total ('000)	1,656.9	1,225.6	646.5	419.3	362.0	136.8	4,525.1
Per cent covered	87.6	86.6	62.4	92.6	90.5	89.5	84.3
FEMALES							
Covered ('000)	1,547.5	1,127.7	454.8	403.3	340.0	125.8	4,062.5
Not covered ('000)	142.8	125.7	191.9	18.9	17.1	10.3	517.0
Total ('000)	1,690.3	1,253.4	646.7	422.2	357.1	136.1	4,579.5
Per cent covered	91.6	90.0	70.3	95.5	95.2	92.4	88.7
PERSONS							
Covered ('000)	2,998.7	2,189.1	858.5	791.7	667.4	248.3	7,878.9
Not covered ('000)	348.5	289.8	434.8	49.8	51.6	24.5	1,225.1
Total ('000)	3,347.2	2,479.0	1,293.2	841.5	719.1	272.8	9,104.6
Per cent covered	89.6	88.3	66.4	94.1	92.8	91.0	86.5

(a) Civilians aged 15 years and over. (b) For definition, see page 1, paragraphs 1 and 3. (c) See page 1, paragraph 5. (d) Includes the Northern Territory and the Australian Capital Territory.

TABLE 2. - NON-INSTITUTIONAL POPULATION (a) : PERCENTAGE COVERED BY HOSPITAL AND MEDICAL EXPENDITURE ASSISTANCE SCHEMES (b), BY AGE AND BIRTHPLACE, AUGUST 1972

Birthplace	Age group (years)								Total
	15-19	20-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-59	60-64	65 and over	
MALES									
Australia	78.3	77.4	86.4	86.8	88.0	88.2	89.1	94.2	85.4
Overseas	65.3	68.0	79.4	83.7	84.3	86.4	90.1	93.0	81.5
Total	76.4	75.4	84.3	85.8	87.0	87.8	89.4	93.9	84.3
FEMALES									
Australia	83.0	86.7	90.2	89.3	90.2	92.4	94.4	95.5	89.7
Overseas	73.8	78.2	84.8	84.1	88.8	89.6	90.6	92.2	85.3
Total	81.8	84.9	88.7	87.9	89.9	91.9	93.5	94.8	88.7
PERSONS									
Australia	80.6	82.0	88.3	88.0	89.1	90.4	91.9	94.9	87.6
Overseas	69.4	73.1	81.9	83.9	86.4	87.9	90.3	92.6	83.3
Total	79.1	80.2	86.4	86.8	88.4	89.9	91.5	94.4	86.5

(a) Civilians aged 15 years and over. (b) For definition, see page 1, paragraphs 1 and 3.

TABLE 3. - NON-INSTITUTIONAL POPULATION (a) : COVERAGE OF HOSPITAL AND MEDICAL
EXPENDITURE ASSISTANCE SCHEMES (b), BY BIRTHPLACE, AUGUST 1972

Birthplace	Covered ('000)	Not covered ('000)	Total ('000)	Per cent covered (c)	
				Australia	Australia excluding Queensland
MARRIED MALES					
Australia	1,965.3	207.6	2,172.9	90.4	93.9
Overseas	781.5	118.5	900.0	86.8	88.7
<u>Total</u>	2,746.7	326.1	3,072.9	89.4	92.3
Greece	40.6	18.7	59.3	68.4	67.8
Italy	102.3	17.1	119.4	85.7	86.9
U.K. and Ireland	324.3	34.7	359.0	90.3	92.7
Yugoslavia	42.1	8.9	51.1	82.5	84.9
ALL MALES					
Australia	2,841.8	487.0	3,328.8	85.4	89.7
Overseas	974.6	221.7	1,196.3	81.5	83.6
<u>Total</u>	3,816.4	708.7	4,525.1	84.3	88.0
Germany (Fed. Republic)	34.2	4.4	38.6	88.6	90.9
Greece	45.6	27.9	73.5	62.0	61.6
Italy	116.5	32.6	149.1	78.1	79.2
Netherlands	49.3	4.9	54.2	91.0	94.5
New Zealand	26.0	8.3	34.2	75.9	79.3
U.K. and Ireland	408.3	63.2	471.5	86.6	89.5
Yugoslavia	50.6	15.5	66.1	76.6	79.2
FEMALES					
Australia	3,165.8	362.2	3,528.0	89.7	93.3
Overseas	896.7	154.8	1,051.5	85.3	86.9
<u>Total</u>	4,062.5	517.0	4,579.5	88.7	91.7
Germany (Fed. Republic)	31.5	4.5	36.0	87.4	91.3
Greece	43.1	25.4	68.5	63.0	62.5
Italy	105.0	19.6	124.6	84.3	85.1
New Zealand	22.6	7.0	29.6	76.5	81.5
U.K. and Ireland	396.4	48.2	444.6	89.2	91.2
Yugoslavia	40.2	9.3	49.5	81.2	83.3
PERSONS					
Australia	6,007.6	849.2	6,856.8	87.6	91.6
Overseas	1,871.3	376.5	2,247.8	83.3	85.1
<u>Total</u>	7,878.9	1,225.7	9,104.6	86.5	89.9
Germany (Fed. Republic)	65.7	9.0	74.6	88.0	91.1
Greece	88.7	53.3	142.0	62.5	62.0
Italy	221.5	52.2	273.7	80.9	81.9
Malta	47.0	5.2	52.3	90.0	89.8
Netherlands	90.4	7.3	97.7	92.5	95.8
New Zealand	48.6	15.2	63.8	76.1	80.3
U.K. and Ireland	804.7	111.4	916.2	87.8	90.3
Yugoslavia	90.8	24.8	115.5	78.6	81.0

(a) Civilians aged 15 years and over. (b) For definition, see page 1, paragraphs 1 and 3. (c) See note regarding Queensland in paragraph 5 on page 1.

TABLE 4. - EMPLOYED PERSONS (a) : COVERAGE OF HOSPITAL AND MEDICAL
EXPENDITURE ASSISTANCE SCHEMES (b), BY OCCUPATION, AUGUST 1972

Occupation group	Covered ('000)	Not covered ('000)	Total ('000)	Per cent covered
MALES				
Professional, technical and related workers	336.0	27.7	363.8	92.4
Administrative, executive and managerial workers	279.0	24.1	303.0	92.1
Clerical workers	268.8	32.7	301.5	89.2
Sales workers	211.7	34.0	245.7	86.2
Farmers, fishermen, timber getters, etc.	327.2	70.6	397.8	82.3
Miners, quarrymen and related workers	27.6	6.3	33.9	81.5
Transport and communication workers	228.8	50.9	279.7	81.8
Tradesmen, production-process workers and labourers, n.e.c. -	1,264.2	337.6	1,601.8	78.9
Metal and electrical trade workers	524.6	95.3	619.9	84.6
Construction workers	94.8	27.2	122.0	77.7
Labourers, n.e.c.	116.4	53.9	170.3	68.4
Other tradesmen and production-process workers	528.4	161.2	689.6	76.6
Service, sport and recreation workers	142.2	31.6	173.8	81.8
Total	3,085.6	615.4	3,701.0	83.4
FEMALES				
Professional, technical and related workers	238.1	19.3	257.4	92.5
Administrative, executive and managerial workers	37.9	5.3	43.2	87.7
Clerical workers	513.2	61.3	574.5	89.3
Sales workers	211.4	33.1	244.4	86.5
Farmers, fishermen, timber getters, etc.	54.2	8.2	62.3	86.9
Transport and communication workers	42.4	5.4	47.9	88.6
Tradeswomen, production-process workers and labourers, n.e.c.	190.8	56.6	247.4	77.1
Service, sport and recreation workers	249.8	51.1	300.9	83.0
Total	1,537.7	240.2	1,778.0	86.5
PERSONS				
Professional, technical and related workers	574.1	47.1	621.2	92.4
Administrative, executive and managerial workers	316.8	29.4	346.2	91.5
Clerical workers	782.1	94.0	876.0	89.3
Sales workers	423.1	67.0	490.1	86.3
Farmers, fishermen, timber getters, etc.	381.4	78.7	460.1	82.9
Miners, quarrymen and related workers	27.6	6.3	33.9	81.5
Transport and communication workers	271.2	56.3	327.5	82.8
Tradesmen, production-process workers and labourers, n.e.c. -	1,455.1	394.1	1,849.2	78.7
Metal and electrical trade workers	559.5	101.3	660.8	84.7
Construction workers	94.9	27.2	122.1	77.7
Labourers, n.e.c.	119.6	54.5	174.2	68.7
Other tradesmen and production-process workers	681.0	211.1	892.2	76.3
Service, sport and recreation workers	392.0	82.7	474.7	82.6
Total	4,623.3	855.6	5,478.9	84.4

(a) Civilians aged 15 years and over. (b) For definition see page 1, paras. 1 and 3.

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NOTE. Inquiries concerning these statistics may be made in Canberra by telephoning 63 9111 extension 2347 or, in each State capital, by telephoning the office of the Bureau of Census and Statistics.